

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-13 were pending. Claims 1-9 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 10-13 are pending after entry of this amendment

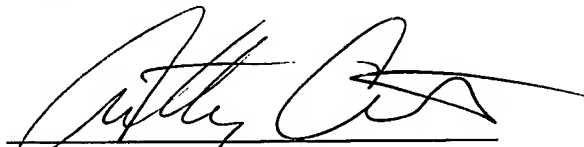
Rejection of Claims

In the Office Action of April 17, 2003, Claims 10-13 were allowed and Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nikaido (EP 0 459 481 A2). Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-9. Only allowed Claims 10-13 remain.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned agents or attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,



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